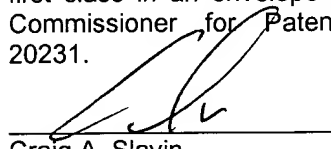




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PATENT

I certify that on 6/29/01, which is the date I am signing this certificate, this correspondence and all attachments mentioned are being deposited in the United States Postal Service as first class in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.


Craig A. Slavin

Applicant: Whayne et al.
Serial No: 09/507,613
Filing Date: 02/21/00
Title: TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2001
Cannister Distal Assembly
With Pull Wires
Group Art Unit: 3762
Examiner: Unassigned

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, the references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 are being brought to the attention of the examiner for consideration in connection with the examination of the above-identified patent application. Copies of the cited documents are enclosed. It is respectfully requested that the examiner indicate consideration of the cited references by returning a copy of the attached form PTO-1449 with initials or other appropriate marks, and that the references be made of record as cited references in the application.

Applicant hereby certifies that each item of information listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 was cited in a Search Report from the European Patent Office in a counterpart European application not more than three months prior to the filing of the present information disclosure statement. An English language version of the Search Report is enclosed.

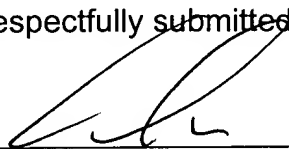
The filing of this information disclosure statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(g)), as an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability, or that no other material information exists. The filing of this information disclosure statement shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0638. Should such fees be associated with an extension of time, applicant respectfully requests that this paper be considered a petition therefor.

6/26/01
Date

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Respectfully submitted,



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